



Cledford Primary School and Gainsborough Primary & Nursery School

A Federation of Cheshire East Primary Schools



Cledford Primary School

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Local Authority Code: 895
Establishment Number: 3821

Local Authority Code: 895
Establishment Number: 3810

School Principal: Mr C Adlington

Federation Headteacher: Mrs A J Booth

School Principal: Mrs J Nurse

Federation Cared for Children Policy

Reviewed: October 2022

Signed:

Mrs J Sercombe (Chair of Governing Board)

Mrs AJ Booth (Federation Headteacher)

Mrs J Nurse (School Principal GPNS)

Mr C Adlington (School Principal CPS)

Next Review Date: September 2024

Rationale

- Many Cared for Children have suffered disrupted learning and may have missed extended periods of school. The gaps in their learning – and in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences – are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress.
- For many Cared for Children, school life can be challenging. They may find it harder to trust adults; their educational experience may have been disrupted; their capacity to build and maintain relationships and friendships may be impaired.
- A supportive school can be the key to their success and can enhance their life chances. School can provide stability, a safe place in a turbulent world, an opportunity to achieve, be successful and excel and a route towards a more successful future
- For our Cared for Children this school aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

Objectives of the Policy

To fulfil our school's role as corporate parents by:

- Promoting the educational achievement of Cared for Children
- Promoting the educational attainment of Cared for Children
- Promoting the welfare of Cared for Children
- Ensuring that Cared for Children stay safe, are healthy, enjoy and achieve, are involved and acquire economic wellbeing

This policy takes account of:

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Designated Teacher Regulations 2009

Children's and Young Persons Act 2008

The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.

The Local Authority's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Cared for Children

The school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Cared for Children is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance
- Targeting support

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- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion by challenging and changing attitudes of the school community
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening to children
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals

Roles and Responsibilities

The Federation Governing Board

The Federation Governing Board will:

- Appoint a designated teacher for Cared for Children who has appropriate seniority, professional experience and status to provide leadership, training, information and advice to others
- Receive reports on Cared for Children
- Ensure that the designated teacher is given the appropriate level of support to fulfil his/her role
- Ensure that the designated teacher has the opportunity to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and training to understand and respond to the specific teaching and learning needs of Cared for Children

The Federation Headteacher and Leadership Team

The federation headteacher, principals and leadership team will ensure the provision/outcomes for Cared for Children are specifically recorded in:

- School Strategic Development Plan
- Self-Evaluation Statement
- Appropriate federation policies and procedures
- Specific reports on issues such as student progress in relation to targets and Fischer Family Trust; exam results; attendance; behaviour, sanctions, exclusions; student voice.

The federation headteacher, principals and leadership team will also:

- Support the designated teacher in the production of annual/termly reports on the provision for, and progress of, Cared for Children to the Federation Governing Board
- Monitor, with the Federation Governing Board, the role of the designated teacher

- Ensure staff are aware that the provision to support Cared for Children is a key school priority
- Give the designated teacher for Cared for Children the time and facilities to carry out the job description and support him/her at all times in his/her work
- Show a personal interest and involvement in Cared for Children in the school
- Challenge negative stereotypes of Cared for Children if they exist and insist on the highest expectations, especially in terms of Cared for Children achieving their full potential
- Provide continuing professional development for staff on issues pertaining to Cared for Children and support the designated teacher so that he/she can attend regular training
- Provide information to the School Improvement Partner regarding the progress of Cared for Children on the school's roll

The Designated Teacher

The role of the designated teacher within the federation

The designated teacher will:

- Promote the educational achievement of every Cared for Child on the school's role
- Provide strategic leadership across the school to ensure that all staff understand and respond positively and with sensitivity to the individual needs of Cared for Children
- Contribute to the development and review of federation policies to ensure that they do not unintentionally put Cared for Children at a disadvantage
- Ensure, in partnership with other staff, that there are effective and well understood federation procedures in place to support Cared for Children's learning. Particular account should be taken of the child's needs when joining the federation and of the importance of promoting an ethos of high expectations about what he/she can achieve
- Promote a culture in which Cared for Children believe they can succeed and aspire to further and higher education
- Promote a culture in which Cared for Children are able to discuss their progress and be involved in setting their own targets, have their views taken seriously and are supported to take responsibility for their own, age appropriate, learning
- Lead the process of individual target setting and tracking of the progress made by Cared for Children
- Produce annual/termly reports on the provision for, and progress of, Cared for Children to the Federation Governing Board
- Be a source of advice for teachers at school about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual pupils who are Cared for

- Ensure the federation makes full use of Assessment for Learning approaches to improve the short and medium term progress of Cared for Children and help them and their teachers understand where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how to get there
- Intervene if there is evidence of under-achievement
- Ensure that Cared for Children are prioritised in any selection of pupils who would benefit from one-to-one tuition and that they have access to academic focussed study
- Take lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the ECHP (educational & health care plan) within the federation in partnership with others as necessary
- Ensure that systems are in place that enable children to have an opportunity to contribute to their EHCP and understand what the plan means for them
- Ensure that appropriate staff attend the EHCP meeting
- Ensure that the EHCP is up-to-date and made available for the child's statutory care plan review
- Contribute to the decision making about the use of the Personal Education Allowance
- Prevent, wherever possible, the exclusion of a Cared for Child
- Maintain a register of Cared for Children
- Keep all relevant education and care information about Cared for Children up to date and that appropriate levels of confidentiality are maintained
- Ensure school procedures for welcoming pupils new to the federation are followed when a Cared for Child joins the federation, particularly as a mid-year admission
- Promote the involvement of Cared for Children in extra-curricular activities both during and after the school day
- Assist Cared for Children in identifying an appropriate member of staff in whom they can confide, or who they are happy to act as an advocate on their behalf

Designated teacher at Cledford: Miss Lucy Wagstaff

Designated teacher at Gainsborough: Mrs Karen Poulson-Green

The Relationship of the designated teacher to others beyond the School

The designated teacher will:

- Be a central point of initial contact for others beyond the federation
- Ensure that arrangements are in place within the federation to facilitate effective co-operation with other professionals, especially the Virtual School Head (or equivalent)
- Report to the Virtual School on the progress, targets, achievements and levels of attainment of Cared for Children

- Ensure that prompt annual collection of results of Key Stage tests and public examinations Cared for Children is available for the Virtual School
- Work closely with the Cared for Child's carers and promote good home-school links
- Ensure school policies in relation to, for example, home-school agreements, time-keeping and attendance, homework diaries and parents' evenings are communicated to carers and social workers and, where appropriate, birth parents
- Ensure that the Cared for Child's teachers know the most appropriate person to contact when necessary e.g. for permission slips for school trips
- Attend, arrange for someone else to attend or contribute in other way to Children's Services Department care planning meetings
- Liaise as appropriate with the federation's Safeguarding Lead/s, FSW/s, school health, EWO, SENDCO/s and/or other professionals
- Provide advice about the likely impact of disrupting the child's education if changes of care placement occur
- Ensure education records are received/passed on if a Cared for Child transfers school and support the transition process
- Be involved in any discussion related to decisions about potential exclusions of Cared for Children
- Ensure that the authority which looks after the child and the child's carers are involved in any discussion/decision about exclusion

Personal Education Plan (PEP)

In line with legal requirements, our designated teacher ensures that each currently looked after child has an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP). The Designated Teacher meets with key adults in school who work with the looked after child and together they consider

- the child's strengths and weaknesses
- interests, both in and out of school
- developmental and educational and pastoral needs
- future plans, and how these can be supported
- issues arising for the child
- targets that will be reviewed during the next PEP meeting
- the voice of the child

The designated teacher then

- helps co-ordinate education and PEP meetings

- ensuring that the attendance of the most appropriate member of staff and/or to all statutory reviews of looked after children
- is responsible for ensuring that the PEPs are completed within statutory timescales and a copy is returned to the Virtual School Head as outlined in the PEP guidance.

Training

The designated teacher will:

- Develop knowledge of Children’s Services procedures by attending training/networking events
- Disseminate information to school staff as appropriate
- Attend training provided locally, regionally or nationally

All Staff/the Whole School

All staff will be aware of Cared for Children in their classes and give them all possible support and encouragement as students who need special provision and positive discrimination whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.

They will help Cared for Children to achieve by:

- Having high expectations of Cared for Children’s involvement in learning and educational progress
- Being aware of the social, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families
- Consult and involve children in the decisions taken about themselves if deemed age appropriate
- Understanding the reasons which may be behind a Cared for Child’s behaviour and why they may need more support than other children. Do not, however, allow this to be an excuse for lowering expectations of what a child is capable of achieving
- Understanding how important it is to see Cared for Children as individuals rather than as a homogenous group and to not publicly treat them differently from their peers
- Appreciating the importance of showing sensitivity about who else knows about a child’s Cared for status
- Appreciating the central importance of the child’s EHCP in helping to create a shared understanding between teachers, carers, social workers and, depending upon age, the child of what everyone needs to do to help the child achieve their potential
- Having the level of understanding needed of the role of social workers, Virtual School Head (or equivalent) and how education and the EHCP fit into the wider care planning duties of the local authority
- Being aware that, for many Cared for Children, bullying is an issue; ensuring that the federation’s anti-bullying policy operates
- Considering how extra academic and pastoral support can be provided for Cared for Children if it is needed

- Ensuring that Cared for Children have every opportunity to participate fully in the national curriculum, examinations, careers guidance, extra-curricular activities, work experience and additional educational support
- Ensuring there is sensitivity to the background of Cared for Children in teaching, especially in work on families and/or family trees
- Respecting the confidentiality of Cared for Children and ensure that any information is shared strictly on a need-to-know basis
- Ensuring that behaviour management policies recognise and make suitable provision for the needs and difficulties of Cared for Children
- Taking appropriate action as soon as there may be any problems with behaviour or attendance
- Involving appropriate carers/parents in home/school arrangements
- Ensuring that any Cared for Children who may have learning difficulties are appropriately supported/assessed/resourced

Links with other policies

This policy links with:

‘Promoting the education of looked after children’ Statutory guidance for local authorities July 2014

[file:///cledfs01/Userdata/Staff/Home/sfrater/Downloads/promoting-the-educational-achievement-of-looked-after-children-lastatutoryguidancefinal-23%20\(1\).pdf](file:///cledfs01/Userdata/Staff/Home/sfrater/Downloads/promoting-the-educational-achievement-of-looked-after-children-lastatutoryguidancefinal-23%20(1).pdf)

‘The designated teacher for looked after and previously looked-after children’ Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities 2017

[file:///cledfs01/Userdata/Staff/Home/sfrater/Downloads/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children-statutory-guidance%20\(1\).pdf](file:///cledfs01/Userdata/Staff/Home/sfrater/Downloads/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children-statutory-guidance%20(1).pdf)

It also links with a number of other school policies and documentation. It is important that Governors have regard to the needs of Cared for Children when reviewing them:

- Oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy
- The School Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policies;
- Safeguarding Pupils Policy
- SEND Policy

Definition

Cared for Children can be:

Section 20 - Accommodated.

This means that the child/young person is looked after on a voluntarily basis. Parents have parental responsibility and there is agreement with the Local Authority (LA) about day to day care arrangements. There are no legal orders i.e. care proceedings have not been to court.

Section 31 – Full Care Order

This means that the child is looked after as a result of care proceedings in court. Parental responsibility is shared by the LA and parents. However, the LA can make all important decisions. It is advisable for those involved with the case to check any requests made by the parents with the Social Worker.

Section 38 – Interim Care Order

This means that the child is subject to on-going court proceedings and assessments. The child has the same legal status as a child on a full care order but only for the time period during which the interim care order has been granted.

Children can live with foster carers or at home, with members of their extended family who have been approved as foster carers, or with parents under the Placed with Parents Regulations or in residential care.

If a child/young person is in receipt of respite care which exceeds 20 days in one episode or is over 120 days in a year, that child is also considered to be an accommodated Cared for Child.

Following arrangements made by the 2017 Act, a designated member of staff is to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked after pupils who are no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order, or were adopted from 'state care' outside England or Wales.

If a child is privately fostered he or she is not a Cared for Child.